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News from

THE U S ARMY ELECTRONICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY  
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Immediate release

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FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. -- Launch of Relay Thursday came but five days short of marking the fourth anniversary of Project Score, the world's first communications satellite.

Score, launched December 18, 1958, carried President Eisenhower's Christmas message to the world. An active relay vehicle, joint project of the U.S. Army Electronics Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, and the Air Force, Score proved the feasibility of relaying signals from one point on earth to another via orbiting satellite.

Relay is the fifth communications satellite. After Score came Echo, a passive reflective balloon, sent aloft August 12, 1960. Less than two months later on October 4, 1960 another active communications vehicle, Courier, was launched. Courier's electronic package was developed and built under supervision of the Fort Monmouth laboratory, as were its ground stations and ground communications equipment.